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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/997,450

11/30/2001

Shamim M. Malik

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45159 7590 01/27/2009  
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EXAMINER

SEVERSON, RYAN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3731

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/27/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

***Response to Amendment***

1. The reply filed on 08 October 2008 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s):

2. In the reply, applicant states claims 2-6, 19, 21, 24 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lazarov et al. (6,110,204) in view of Shamim et al. (*J. Appl. Phys.*, **69**(5) 1 March 1991). Applicant proceeds to provide arguments in response to this alleged finding of obviousness. However, a review of the non-final rejection mailed 09 July 2008 (particularly paragraph 5) will show that the Shamim et al. article recited above was not relied upon to reject the claims. The Shamim et al. article entitled "*Development of an energetic ion assisted mixing and deposition process of TiN<sub>x</sub> and diamondlike carbon films, using a co-axial geometry in plasma source ion implantation*" is that which was relied upon to support the finding of obviousness. Therefore, applicant has not responded to the rejection set forth in the non-final rejection. See 37 CFR 1.111.

3. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan Severson whose telephone number is (571) 272-3142. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30-5:00.

5. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anhtuan Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. J. S./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3731

/Anhtuan T. Nguyen/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731